

# WE BROUGHT NOTHING INTO THIS WORLD

Edited by:  
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THOMAS TOMPKINS  
(1527 - 1656)

Tomkins was born in St David's in Pembrokeshire. His father was also a musician, a vicar choral of the cathedral of St Davids and organist there; his three half-brothers were musicians as well, but none attained the fame of Thomas. In 1596 he was appointed as a choral instructor at Worcester Cathedral. Most likely he studied with William Byrd for a time in London, for he dedicated a madrigal to him as his teacher. While in London he probably met Thomas Morley. Morley included one of Tomkins' madrigals in his important collection *The Triumphs of Oriana* in 1601.

He became a Gentleman Ordinary of the Chapel Royal sometime before 1620, and senior organist there in 1625. He appears to have withdrawn from the post in about 1628. He was employed by Worcester Cathedral for the next two decades, but when the city was captured by parliamentary forces in 1646, during the Civil War, he lost his job, though he was allowed to continue living near the cathedral. Music, to the victorious side, was something to be abolished in all churches (with the exception of the singing of metrical psalms); the Worcester Cathedral organ (which Tomkins had commissioned in 1614) was destroyed and the choir disbanded. Tomkins moved in with his son, and lived with him until his death in 1656.

Treble

We brought no-thing in-to this world, in-to this world, nei-ther

Alto

We brought no-thing in-to this world, in-to this world,

Tenor

We brought no-thing in-to this world, in-to this world,

Bass

We brought no-thing in-to this world, in-to this world,

*pars organum*

The text for this motet is taken from the Funeral Sentences of the 1549 Book of Common Prayer.

5

may we car - ry a - ny - thing out of this world. nei - ther may we

nei - ther may we car - ry a - ny - thing out of this world. out of this

nei - ther may nei - ther may we

nei - ther may we car - ry a - ny - thing out nei - ther

5

9

car - ry a - ny - thing out of this world. car - ry a - ny -

world. nei - ther may we nei - ther may we car - ry a - ny - thing out of this world.

nei - ther may we car - ry a - ny - thing out of this world. nei - ther may we car - ry

may we car - ry a - ny - thing out of this world. nei - ther may we car - ry

9

13

thing out of this world. this world. The Lord gi - veth, The

out of this world. The Lord gi - veth, The

a - ny - thing out of this world. The Lord gi - veth, The

a - ny - thing out of this world. The Lord gi - veth, The

13

17

Lord gi - veth, and the Lord ta - keth a - way,

Lord gi - veth, and the Lord ta - keth a - way, ev'n

Lord gi - veth, and the Lord ta - keth a - way,

Lord gi - veth, and the Lord ta - keth a - way,

17

21

ev'n as it plea-seth it plea-seth the Lord, so co -

as it plea-seth the Lord, ev'n as it plea - seth the Lord, so co -

8 ev'n as it plea-seth the Lord, it plea - seth the Lord, so

ev'n as it plea-seth as it plea - seth the Lord, so

21

25

meth things to pass, so co - meth things to pass, bles-sed be the name

meth things to pass, so co - meth things to pass, bles-sed bles - sed

8 co - meth things to pass, so co-meth things to pass, to pass, bles - sed

co - meth things to pass, so co - meth things to pass, bles-sed be

25

29

be the name of the Lord, ble - sed be the

be the name of the Lord, O ble - sed be the name

be the name the name of the Lord, ble - sed

the name of the Lord, ble - sed

29

32

name of the O

the name of the Lord, of the Lord.

be the name of the Lord, of the Lord.

be the name of the Lord, of the Lord.

32